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SOURCE Neue Zuercher Zeitung.CZECH GOVERNMENT CRACKS DOWN ON UNDERGROUND GROUPS

SENTENCE 16 YUGOSLAV SPIES -- Neue Zuercher Zeitung, 4 Sep 50

Prague, 3 September -- The verdict of the trial of 16 members of a pro-Yugoslav spy ring has been announced.

The ringleader Cefik Kevic, the former Yugoslav vice-consul in Bratislava, and Slobodan Macura were sentenced to forced labor for life. Eight other Yugoslav citizens were given prison sentences of from 3 to 22 years.

Rudolf Loncaric, a former member of the state security organization, and Ernst Otto, a former official of the Slovak Education Commission, were given death sentences. The other four Czechs were given prison terms ranging from 20 to 25 years.

CONDEMN "SVETLANA" GROUP FOR TREASON -- Neue Zuercher Zeitung, 21 Sep 50

Prague, 18 September -- In the trial of the illegal "Svetlana" group in Gottwaldov, Jaromir Vrba, the head of the group, was sentenced to death. He was accused of having murdered a member of the SNB who wanted to arrest him, of having written a threatening letter to Prime Minister Zapotocky, and of having distributed leaflets advocating the overthrow of the government. All of the 28 members were accused of high treason and espionage. Forced labor sentences up to 22 years were given to 23 members and four members were sentenced to forced labor for life.

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